Deforestation in Madhya Pradesh

†1088. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for inability on the part of Government to keep a check on rampant deforestation in Madhya Pradesh which has an abundance of forest wealth;

(b) the action being taken by Government in respect of adverse affect of deforestation on environment; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to keep a check on deforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No reports of rampant deforestation in Madhya Pradesh have come to the notice of the Government In fact, as per the State of Forest Reports, published bi-annually by Forest survey of India, there is an increasing trend in the forest cover of the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Year	Forest cover (*rea in Sq. km.)*
1997	74,760
1999	75,137
2001	77,265

(b) and (c) The steps taken by Government to check defoestation are as indicated below:—

(i) Financial assistance is provided under various centrally sponsored forestry and wildlife schemes for the protection and conservation of forest and wildlife.

(ii) Creation of network of protected area i.e. Wildlife National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves.

(iii) Involvement of local communities in protection, conservation and management of forests through the process of Joint Forest Management.

(iv) Management of forest areas through the system of working plans which are approved by Central Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(v) Afforestation of degraded land under National Afforestation Programme through the system of Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management Committees.

(vi) Harvesting of tress from Government Forest Land only through the agency of State Forest Departments/Forest Development Corporations.

Clearance of water pollution projects in Tamil Nadu

1089. SHRI R. SHUNMU GASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects underway to clear pollution in the rivers and waterways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount of funds which have been allocated for the clearance of water pollution in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the number of sewage treatment **plants** which have been constructed in Chennai city and how many of them are functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The projects approved for implementation and allocation/sanction of funds for abatement of pollution of rivers and waterways in Tamil Nadu under National River Conservation Plan are as follows:

(i)	clearance of pollution of waterways in Chennai (100% centrally funded	— Rs. 491.52 crore
(ii)	Clearance of pollution of rivers namely Cauvery, Vennar, Vaigai and Tambrabarni in Erode, Bhavani, Kumarapalayam, Pallipalayam, Trichy-Srirangam, Madurai, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Myladuthurai and Karur-lnam Karur towns	
	—100%, centrally funded	— Rs. 36.28 crore
	-— Cost sharing between Central Govt. & State Government/local body/public (approximately 50:50)	— Rs. 575.30 crore
	TOTAL	— Rs. 1103.10 crore